326

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July 1975

7/16/75

Honorable Frank Church, Chairman
Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations
Committee on Foreign Relations

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of June 24 concerning the work of your Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations. In your letter you raised two specific matters regarding Gulf Oil Corporation and Mr. Tong Sun Park.

Your letter notes that it has been suggested to the Subcommittee that the U.S. Ambassador in Seoul was aware of contributions by Gulf Oil to Korean political campaigns in 1967 and 1970 and communicated with the Department of State about them. You accordingly requested that copies of all reports and memoranda relating to these Gulf political contributions in Korea and any resulting State Department consideration of the question be made available to the Subcommittee.

As you know, Assistant Secretary Habib met with Messrs. Blum and Levinson of your staff on this subject on June 23. Mr. Habib pointed out that when he was Ambassador in Seoul from November 1971 to August 1974 he was not aware of any contributions by Gulf in 1966 and 1970 to political campaigns in Korea. Mr. Habib also agreed that the Department would search its files to see if there was any record, including any Department handling of this matter.

We have completed a search through the Department's files from 1966 through 1974 and have found no documents in these files from any source which would indicate that the Department was aware of the Gulf election contributions until we were informed by Gulf after the SEC investigation this year.

In regard to your second request that files in the Department on Mr. Tong Sun Park be made available to the Subcommittee, we are ready to discuss with the Subcommittee staff the provision of information from our files on an appropriate basis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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I hope that the foregoing has been useful to you and that you will call on the Department if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary
For Congressional Relations

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Clearances: EA/K - Mr. O'Donohue
EA - Mr. Habib
INR/DDC - Mr. Brown (subs)
L - Mr. Feldman
H - Mr. Jenkins